



TRURO, N.S.

April 26, 1971.

The American Numismatic Association,  
P. O. Box 2366,  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901.

Gentlemen:

National Coin Week, 1971 [the 16th for me] has come and gone, and reports are being prepared and momentos filed away--inaccessibly. I have before me a copy of the brochure for my 1971 series of "Seminars in Popular Numismatics"--I feel, one of the most successful of strictly educational events I have involved myself in, in the name of A.N.A. and N.C.W. It seems to me that the N.C.W. "Individual Class" is sadly neglected in most years' competitions, and I am anxious to promote it and to share what I have learned. Might I, therefore, deposit a copy of my 1971 "Seminars in Popular Numismatics" brochure in the A.N.A. Library, in the hope that other future contestants may benefit. Going through my N.C.W. papers, I have located the 1970 "Seminars" brochure, which I also enclose.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Don Allen,  
Associate Professor of Education.

A.N.A. IM 326



SEMINARS IN POPULAR NUMISMATICS  
1971 SERIES

- -

lectures and discussions  
in observation of  
NATIONAL COIN WEEK, 1971  
of the

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

- -

by

H. D. Allen

- -

MONEY--AN OLD INVENTION COMES OF AGE  
Monday, April 19

NUMISMATICS--THE HOBBY OF ALL AGES  
Wednesday, April 21

at 7:30 p.m.

NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS COLLEGE  
Forrester Hall  
Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada

THE PUBLIC WELCOME





March 31st, 1971.

COIN WEEK AT NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS COLLEGE

WHEREAS leisure activity is a significant part of modern living from early childhood through adolescence and adulthood and into an increased span of years of retirement, and

WHEREAS the worthwhile use of leisure can enrich life and promote interests and activities and friendships that are life-long in duration, and

WHEREAS teachers in their work with the young cannot but reflect the breadth and diversity of their own leisure interests, and

WHEREAS the efforts of the school in guiding the young toward a full and worthwhile life should prepare them for their leisure interests, and

WHEREAS those leisure interests which by their nature or modern interpretation are both intellectual and fraternal, which are satisfying to a broad segment of the population and suitable equally to the young, the adult, and the aged, have particular potential for enriching a life, and

WHEREAS the study of money in its diverse forms and the fraternal affiliation possible within the 'coin hobby' have commended themselves to millions and represent an intellectual and hobby interest with centuries of precedent, and

WHEREAS coin collecting currently thrives as a hobby interest and potential serious study for all ages in many communities of Nova Scotia and Canada's Maritime Provinces, and




WHEREAS such interest builds upon distinct and important numismatic traditions of this community, this Province, Atlantic Canada, this Nation, and the world, and upon twenty-five centuries of world history, and promotes a healthy awareness of our past and our heritage, and

WHEREAS the American Numismatic Association, a non-profit educational and fraternal organization chartered in perpetuity by the Congress of the United States and offering world leadership in fraternal numismatics has seen fit for four decades to designate a week as National Coin Week to be observed by its membership and by the general public in promoting the educational and leisure interest aspects of the 'coin hobby', and

WHEREAS the Canadian Numismatic Association has lent its support to this international 'Coin Week' and its aims, and

WHEREAS activities of interest and educational values to the students of this college and future teachers of Nova Scotia are proposed to be carried out on this campus in conjunction with National Coin Week, 1971,

I AM PLEASED to designate the period APRIL 18 TO APRIL 24, 1971 as COIN WEEK at NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS COLLEGE, commending to the college community the theme of the Week, 'NUMISMATICS: THE HOBBY OF ALL AGES', the educational exhibits to be presented on the campus, and the lectures on money and the coin hobby to which all will be invited.

  
.....  
Verl M. Short,  
Principal,  
NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS COLLEGE.



### National Coin Week

Begun in the 1920's and now observed each Spring as an informative and educational event, National Coin Week is coordinated by the American Numismatic Association, the largest fraternal group in the coin hobby, and observed by coin clubs and individual members in many parts of the world. The purpose of the Week is to present to the general public something of the lore of monetary history and the fascination of 'coin collecting' and monetary study as a leisure pursuit. The week of April 18-24 has been designated as National Coin Week for 1971, with as its theme, 'Numismatics: The Hobby of All Ages'. Coin Week is being marked here at Nova Scotia Teachers College by a variety of exhibits and special events, of which these 'Seminars in Popular Numismatics' are of central importance.

### The Speaker

Internationally known as a lecturer and writer on popular numismatics, the speaker has broadcast across Canada, on short wave, on Montreal, Moncton, and Halifax television, and in the U.S., on numismatics as a leisure interest, and has won some forty A.N.A. educational awards and the Association's 'outstanding service' award for 1970. He has published several hundred articles, in leading numismatic journals of Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, London, in 1963. This is his sixteenth consecutive year of National Coin Week participation.

### Numismatic Associations

The following interest groups within popular numismatics will welcome your enquiries and possible affiliation. Sample publications should be available at nominal cost. The speaker will be pleased to sponsor your membership if, at some future date, there is any such group that you should wish to join.

1. Truro Coin Club [A.N.A., C.N.A., and A.P.N.A. affiliated]  
Rev. Layton G. Tattrie, President,  
Edgewood Drive,  
Truro, Nova Scotia. (Dues \$2)  
  
Meets second Mondays, except July and August, 8 p.m., Kinsmen Service Centre, Truro, Nova Scotia. Visitors welcomed.
2. Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association,  
c/o Mr. Bernard G. Kline, Secretary,  
1635 Edward Street,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia. (Dues \$1)  
  
Spring and Fall meetings in different Maritime centres.  
Monthly newsletter.
3. Canadian Numismatic Association [A.N.A. affiliated]  
c/o Mrs. Louise Graham, General Secretary,  
P. O. Box 313,  
Willowdale, Ontario. (Dues \$8)  
  
Publishes, 11 times a year, The Canadian Numismatic Journal.



4. American Numismatic Association,  
c/o Mr. Adna G. Wilde, Jr., Executive Director,  
A.N.A. Headquarters Building,  
Colorado State College campus,  
P. O. Box 2366,  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901. (Entrance fee \$5, dues \$6)  
Publishes monthly The Numismatist, A.N.A. Club Bulletin.
5. Tokens and Medals Society,  
c/o Dorothy C. Baber, Secretary,  
611 Oakwood Way,  
El Cajon, California 92021. (Dues \$4)  
Publishes Journal of the Tokens and Medals Society.
6. American Vecturist Association [transit tokens],  
c/o Rev. John M. Coffee, Editor,  
P. O. Box 1204,  
Boston, Massachusetts 02104. (Dues \$4)  
Publishes monthly The Fare Box.
7. Merchant Token Collectors Association,  
c/o Mr. Ray Nadreau,  
Box 176,  
Seattle, Washington 98160. (Dues \$4)  
Publishes monthly Trade Token Topics.
8. American Tax Token Society,  
c/o J. F. Schimmel,  
Mission Centers,  
2588 Mission Street,  
San Francisco, California 94110.
9. Society of Ration Token Collectors,  
c/o Mrs. Viola M. Thomas, Secretary,  
5751 - 63rd Street,  
Sacramento, California 95824. (Dues \$2)  
Publishes quarterly The Ration Board.
10. International Bank Note Society,  
c/o Mrs. Adolph B. Hill, Jr., Secretary,  
4944 Lindell Blvd.,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108.  
Publishes quarterly magazine.
11. Canadian Paper Money Society,  
c/o Mr. Wilfred A. Sandall, Executive Director (Membership),  
P. O. Box 7, Station S,  
Toronto, Ontario. (Dues \$10)  
Publishes quarterly Canadian Paper Money Journal.
12. Numismatic Society of South Australia, Inc.,  
c/o Mr. Norman W. Gaunt, Honorary Secretary,  
P. O. Box 80B, G. P. O.,  
Adelaide, South Australia 5001, Australia.  
Publishes Australian Numismatic Journal.



## SEMINARS IN POPULAR NUMISMATICS

## 1971 SERIES

## I

## MONEY--AN OLD INVENTION COMES OF AGE

Monday, April 19

MONEY: UNDERLYING CONCEPTS. Barter and commodity money: salt, tea, opium, cattle, jewels, metals. Monetary forms: cowries, wampum, Chinese knife money, Yap stone money, the Baluba cross, metal bars and coins. Traditional coinage metals: gold, electrum, silver, bronze. Promissory paper: Marco Polo's China, goldsmith's receipts, notes of commercial banks, government notes. Token coinage. Non-coinage tokens.

MONEY'S TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS. Monetary supply and demand. Money as a commodity. Siege money: in metal, in paper (Gordon). Paper money experiences: the playing cards of New France (1685), 'Continental currency' (U.S.), the Assignats (revolutionary France), the days of 'wildcat' banking, 'Save your Confederate money, boys...', twentieth-century 'runaway inflations'--Germany, China, Greece, Hungary. Military and occupation issues (Allied, Japanese). Legal tender paper.

TOWARD A CASHLESS SOCIETY. Token coinage debased. Non-negotiable paper. Trends: decimalization, growing uniformity. Automation: vending machine, bill changer, computer. Role of the cheque in major, minor purchases. Growth of the credit card. Potential for magnetic encoded cards, computer-linked, cashlessness.

## II

## NUMISMATICS--THE HOBBY OF ALL AGES

Wednesday, April 21

STATUS OF COIN HOBBY. Numbers involved (Wall Street Journal estimates, A.N.A. membership, educated guesses). Ranking among leisure interests. Proliferation of coin clubs. Growth of 'specialist' groups.

COIN COLLECTING IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE. Traditional interest of a literate, leisured, monied minority. Collecting interests--'classics', later type-coins. Gold and silver stressed. The coin cabinet.

COIN COLLECTING AND THE COMMON MAN. The hobby in the past century. Increased leisure, wealth. Shift in interest. Collecting by dates and series. Growth of organized numismatics. The local coin club. The coin folder. Plastic 'hardware'. Speculation in numismatics.

TRENDS IN THE COIN HOBBY. Lincoln 'penny' the most collected coin. Canadian 'decimal' interests. Mint and 'proof' sets. Growth of new fields of interest. Coin papers and specialized journals. Collectors of transit tokens, merchant tokens, tax tokens, ration items, fiscal documents. International interests. Educational aspect. Emphasis on reaching the young. Education for leisure.

HOW TO GO ABOUT COLLECTING. The breadth of numismatics. Canadian coins from circulation. Earlier Canadian, Provincial series. Other sources. World coins. Paper money. Token series. The 'local' in numismatics. Numismatic affiliations and readings. The pleasure of collecting.



Coin collecting is an old hobby with a new look.

Finds of Roman coins are known consisting essentially of one of a type. Coin collecting may be one of the oldest of leisure activities.

The nobleman of several centuries ago frequently had the literacy, the leisure, the resources, and the inclination to learn the fascination of coins. His coin cabinet may have been his great pride, and a focal point of discussion for his knowledgeable visitors.

The traditional collector, with two thousand years of coins from which to choose, collected by types, looking to portraiture, artistry, historic connections.

The last eighty years have made coins the hobby of the common man, and coin collecting has taken on its new look. Coins are housed in inexpensive cardboard folders, individual envelopes, or plastic mounts. Collecting, more often than not, is by dates. And numbers grow. The Wall Street Journal recently estimated the number of coin collectors in the United States as five million.

The most collected coin in history is America's lowly Lincoln cent. Issued in 1909 on the centennial of Lincoln's birth, it is collected by millions, the limited supply of some dates and varieties pushing prices into the hundreds of dollars. On a smaller scale, the same has happened with the familiar coinage of Canada. Most collectors want one piece of each date. They insist on, and will pay for, the best possible state of preservation. A sugar bowl of Victorian silver coins, new as the day they were minted, would command real money today.

Other collectors, predictably, flee the high prices and collect material somewhat off the beaten track. Old tokens, once good in trade at the general store, have a sizable following. So do bank notes, many types of which, no longer redeemable, are available at nominal cost. Some collectors see the answer to high prices in collecting by types, acquiring many world coins but avoiding the scarce dates.



Keeping pace with the new popularity of coin collecting has been the growth of coin clubs, several thousand of which are thriving in North America today. Active clubs in the Maritime Provinces include those in Sydney, Halifax, Truro, Charlottetown, Moncton, Newcastle, and St. John. Founded in February, 1969, the Truro Coin Club meets on the second Monday of each month, at 8 p.m., at the Kinsmen Service Centre, 121 Park Street. As at all such clubs, visitors are cordially welcomed.

Coin collecting has a marked advantage among leisure activities in that it can be life-long. Children collect cents by date, seeking one of each year since their birth. A good book on coins--and Truro's Regional Library is well stocked--can open up new fields. Not a few elderly Maritimers continue to enjoy their coins, and their coin collecting friendships, into their retirement years.

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Educational displays relating to the topics are drawn to your attention. These are situated outside the Library at Nova Scotia Teachers College, and at the Truro branch of Bank of Montreal.

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The text of an impromptu radio interview recently given by the speaker is appended, as of interest to those attending these Seminars. The transcript, from an 'aircheck' tape recording, was prepared by the Speakers Bureau, Nova Scotia Teachers College.



ANNCR: Don Allen is a teacher of mathematics at the Nova Scotia  
1 Teachers College in Truro, and he was in Halifax recently  
for a monthly meeting of the Halifax Coin Club, to show  
his collection and also give a brief address. Mr. Allen,  
you have done this kind of thing far and wide, I understand.

ALLEN: This is true. Once a teacher, always a teacher . . . and  
2 when you ride a hobby horse for twenty years you develop  
interests that you genuinely enjoy sharing. I find,  
wherever I go--in the Maritimes, in Canada, the U. S.--  
there is a good audience within the coin hobby . . . and  
very often, as you can see right now, an audience, poten-  
tially, outside the hobby, that still finds money interes-  
ting.

ANNCR: Well, I've taken quite an interest in the samples you've  
3 brought with you. We have here tokens--dairy tokens--and  
also 'the evolution of the credit card' . . . which, I  
understand from you just now, is not a new thing . . . it's  
fifty years old, in fact . . . and you also have some  
paper money--currency--and all of this is very interesting.  
You have a military ten dollar bill, a military currency  
. . . perhaps we could just start half-way in the middle  
and explain what this means . . . this looks like it's the  
United States Army . . .

ALLEN: That's Vietnam . . . that's the money used by the troops in  
4 Vietnam. There is a history to these military currencies.  
I brought these in, to show the boys in the Halifax Coin  
Club. This ten dollar bill is brand new . . . within the  
last month it made its appearance on the Vietnam scene.  
The one we're looking at, with a tank on the back and a  
soldier in a beret on the front, this is the issue that was  
replaced by it, overnight. There's a tradition to the  
Military Payment Certificates . . . they function as if they  
were American dollars, but with the one proviso that they  
can be demonetized when there's a reason. The reason was  
the devaluation of the currency of Vietnam . . . and these



special scrip notes were used by the American troops, but were not legal in the hands of civilians, were not meant to get into the native economy--into the black market--and therefore performed a rather special monetary function. They're pretty things, interesting things, and a reflection of one facet of the world today.

ANNCR: Do you have a Brazilian bill?

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ALLEN: That is a lesson in itself . . . it's a five hundred  
6 cruziero bill, linked with one of the worst inflations in the Western Hemisphere at the present time. The Brazilian cruziero has spiralled in terms of what price tags look like . . . and therefore it has dropped like a stone in terms of value. When this happens, it is customary to establish a new monetary unit . . . and this one terrifies me. This is a five hundred cruziero note . . . and then the new cruziero was brought in last year, at one to one thousand. It's equivalent to taking a five hundred dollar bill and overprinting it 'fifty cents'. It's inflation, it exists here . . . but when it really gets out of hand, this is a picture of what happens . . . recorded right on the face of the bank note.

ANNCR: I imagine the Canadian dollar is quite a reliable currency  
7 exchange . . . means of exchange.

ALLEN: It's highly respected . . . and has certainly fared as  
8 well as its competitors. There has been inflation . . . we all know it. I'm old enough to remember when our front porch was filled by a seven-dollar weekly order . . . that twenty dollars would not pay for today. There is a creeping inflation in the American, Canadian, British, European monetary units . . . but nothing like the mad, spiralling type of inflation that several South American countries have had as almost endemic.

ANNCR: You have a hobby which you've admitted has lasted over a  
9 period of twenty years. How did it start?



ALLEN: The way it so often does. Boys--boys more than girls--they  
10 get curious about things. They're the ones who bring home  
the frogs and . . . [laughter]. Boys tended, in my day, to  
be very interested in the kinds of money that went through  
their hands. A cent was big . . . you could buy bubble gum  
with it, and all kinds of things . . . and also you could  
notice it was minted in the year you were born. You would  
see different dates on the coins, and you would try to  
collect one of each year. I'm sure that's how most of my  
friends got started. That's how I started. That was quite  
a while ago, but I found I could get (the big cents were  
still around when I was young) . . . I could get one of  
each year right back to 1890 . . . and I spent years  
looking for 1889. There were no books to tell me there  
weren't any . . . I guess I enjoyed the hunt! That was  
how my interest got started . . . it has, I like to think,  
matured.

ANNCR: Then it expanded . . . you have dairy tokens, and I didn't  
11 ever think they had any more value to them.

ALLEN: Oh, they haven't . . . they haven't any value, but I think  
12 they are interesting. I'm a relative newcomer to the  
Maritimes, and I was fascinated when the Welcome Wagon  
came around--in Truro--and left these little, red aluminum  
tokens that are, in the trade, called 'mushrooms' . . .  
good for a quart of milk. My friends who collect tokens  
from the old general stores and company towns thought  
these all died out in the 1890's, 1900's. They still  
exist in the Maritimes and in some other parts of Canada.  
They're just about unknown in the United States, Australia,  
New Zealand. They are relics, almost like living dinosaurs,  
here in the Maritimes, and to me they are very, very inter-  
esting numismatic material. I've acquired a few friends  
in the dairy industry, and searched out many of the  
varieties . . . from the old dairys of Prince Edward Island,  
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. Not Newfoundland, for some  
reason, but in the three Maritime Provinces these tokens



serve to pay for milk . . . in a rather ingenious way, when you think about it. Shapes are interesting, for the tokens are meant to hang in the neck of the bottle. Our milkman says there's nothing worse than paper tickets . . . they freeze to the bottom and you can't get them out! But these tokens hang . . . in a distinctive shape. Our milkman friend tells me that in the town I come from, money put in bottles sometimes disappears. We look at children, and the milkman shakes his head . . . it isn't always children. Well, it is a thought: money, there, can't perform the function this token can. This token won't buy candy and it won't buy beer . . . it'll buy milk, and for that reason it stays in the bottle.

ANNCR: It's made of aluminum.

13

ALLEN: They are anodized aluminum, in all the colours of the rainbow. The old ones were brass, in Canada, and they go back into the last century . . . and collectors really go for them. The new ones . . . I don't think anyone is really interested except me . . . and a few who share my interests. It's a bit of Maritime lore, and I enjoyed tuning in on it when I came to this part of Canada.

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ANNCR: Isn't that nice. I imagine there's no limit to what a numismatist can tackle, is there? For example, it comes to mind, subway tokens . . . or street railway tickets.

15

ALLEN: Or back to the horsecar days! Tickets, certainly, but tokens . . . somehow the metallic has a certain something about it that the ticket and the bank note don't have, for the majority of collectors. The tokens that used to be used on the old turnpikes . . . the toll roads of Pennsylvania . . . are searched for today. Some of the rarest tokens of Canada were used on old bridges at Bout de l'Ile on the Island of Montreal . . . that were washed away by the ice the following Spring . . . but the tokens remain, good for a carriage to go across a bridge that no longer exists. Subways, horsecars, ferryboats, trains, have used metallic

16



tokens, and these somehow persist. You throw away all the junk, but you don't throw away, in your Spring cleaning, what looks and feels like money. And so, somehow, over the centuries, this comes down . . . just as the coins of Greece and Rome, authentic, are quite plentiful today, and many are available for a dollar or two. For two thousand years, nobody has thrown them away . . . and if they got lost, someone dug them up and kept them, because they were . . . that magic word, money!

ANNCR: Have you placed a limit on your own collection? Are you  
17 collecting ancient coins . . . or what is your specialty?

ALLEN: Well, my interest is anything that represents money. And in  
18 the broadest sense, so I am interested in some of the primitive monetary forms, used by civilizations before they got into the main stream of coins and paper money. Mostly, I am interested in the period that I live in and expect to live into . . . a future computer age. This bright new twenty dollar bill that came out this year [1970], it's money . . . no longer, if you read the small print on it, does it say someone will pay you twenty dollars, it says this is legal tender . . . this piece of paper is twenty dollars. But, when you think about it, when you make a major purchase that involves hundreds or thousands of dollars, you don't use these. You use other forms that, to me, are money in themselves. The cheque, the credit card, the various types of bank drafts, letters of credit, and such, these too are ways of transferring wealth, and that's one job at least of money . . . to exchange value.

ANNCR: You have a collection of credit cards. Are you keeping a  
19 collection of cheque forms?

ALLEN: Very much so.

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ANNCR: Are you. Indeed . . . tell us about that.

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ALLEN: The cheque is the money, I guess, of the period after the  
22 decline of gold. It is the money of today. I find, more  
and more, I pay by cheque. I don't make a point of it, but  
I find I just do pay my bills by cheque and by mail. Now,  
as a numismatist, I have friends all over the world, and  
numismatic affiliations in Australia, Mexico, Iceland, New  
Zealand . . . and when I send for my subscription to a  
journal or my dues for the year, it's by cheque that I pay.  
That cheque comes back . . . as it comes back, it's whole  
story of how it has moved across the world is stamped right  
on its face. And, in many cases, there is a tax stamp from  
Italy, a tax stamp from New South Wales, right on it, dated  
. . . and you can trace it back through New York, through  
Montreal, to Halifax, back to Truro . . . and there is quite  
a story wrapped up in it. I have seen some of them get  
embroiled in the postal strikes . . . come back months later  
. . . and while that cheque was 'in transit'--it's an interes-  
ting thing--where was the money? The money was sitting in my  
account, waiting for the cheque to be paid. But if it hadn't  
been there . . . it's a horrible thought but the cheque  
still would have walked around the world . . . and if it had  
been there when it got home--if you could predict when it was  
to come home--then the transaction would have been fine.  
It's an interesting business.

ANNCR: Yes . . . Well, 'The Evolution of the Credit Card' is the  
23 title you've given to a display that starts with brass coins  
and ends with a plastic embossed card. What is the evolution  
of the credit card?

ALLEN: I guess it's the institutionalization, if you like, of the  
24 evolution of credit . . . from the basic idea of a man  
trusting a man, a farmer, perhaps, whose crops would be in  
soon and who needed some tools, some supplies, from the  
general store, and it was a man-to-man arrangement. The  
institutionalization took the form of very effective credit  
accounts, with prearranged credit . . . with the earliest form  
of what we think of as a credit card being round and metallic.  
There are a number of such pieces I've seen, and there are a  
number of friends of mine who collect these quite enthusias-



tically, all in the United States. One, here, is a 'service token' once used by Gimbel's in Philadelphia. It has the corporate emblem on it . . . and it has stamped into it a six-digit serial number, which is your account number. You simply carried the token with you . . . many of them have a hole in them which indicates they could be on a key chain. You showed this to the salesperson. It was a record of your account number. It was put on the saleslip . . . and the wheels turned as they would turn today. That was the basic idea. I've seen it from Western Canada. I've seen tokens from many, many big cities of the United States. It was a big city invention to take the place of a small community tradition. Now, over the years, that idea evolved. It was obvious you could lose one of those tokens . . . and if someone found it, there was no validating signature, there was no way to prove you were you. You had the token . . . they honoured the purchase. Various off-shoots of the basic idea do occur. I've seen one token in celluloid with the number printed on it, but this is not really progress. Progress took two forms . . . you had the pasteboard 'card' with the name printed or otherwise appearing on it, a serial number, and a validating signature, which identified you as you, at least by your signature. The advance beyond that became the 'charge plate'. I don't know how many remember those, but they were little metallic plates that imprinted, very much like some of the mailing stencils used today. But the day of the credit card seemed to coincide with the invention of the plastic type of imprinting credit card that is pretty well universal today. I think the only major user of cardboard cards any more across North America is the telephone companies . . . who will give you an annual card with your name and number on it.

ANNCR: Yes . . . and of course I am familiar with the plastic card.  
25 I probably have two or three of them. How many of those are in existence? Is there any idea . . .? Are you making a collection?

ALLEN: Casually . . . not with any obsession . . . but as I get the  
26 opportunity. I never turn down an application. And, on the



other hand, a few of my friends do informally exchange them. We make a practice of keeping them in a safety deposit box. It's not something you'd want to have stolen. Even old, expired ones . . . there are tricks for bringing them up to date. They are a bit of a menace . . . more so than money, in that if they are lost there can be severe complications. The actual upswing in the use of the credit card comes, I think, at the point where the banks got into the operation. The first credit cards, I am pretty sure, were merchants', department stores'.

ANNCR: Yes . . .

27

ALLEN: Then you found credit cards developing within the post-war travel industry, for lack of a better word . . . you found cards good at hotels, good at gas stations, good on trains and airlines. That developed along its logical course. You began to find the development of 'universal cards' that you had to pay for . . . this was another breed. This was your Diners Club, your Carte Blanche, your American Express . . . they all exist and thrive today. But in the last ten years you have the tremendous growth of 'free' (I use the word in quotation marks . . . nothing is free in this world today!) free general purpose credit cards . . . the two big ones. I just saw a press clipping the other day . . . the BankAmericard, which was originally pioneered in California by Bank of America, and the Master Charge, the 'Interbank' card used by a large number of banks in the Eastern United States . . . the paper said the other day that thirty-five million of each of those were currently out in the United States. The numbers are staggering. The Chargex scheme is the Canadian counterpart of that. Four large, well-known Canadian banks got together on this scheme in Montreal and Toronto several years ago and introduced something very much like the BankAmericard to Canada. Just the other day in industry in Halifax I hear that within a year this Chargex (which I saw in Kingston a few weeks ago) is now coming to the Halifax area of the Maritimes. It will become, no doubt, national, and will be the Canadian counterpart, for better or for worse, of the American bank credit card . . .



'free' and with a built-in 'line of credit' . . . which is an interesting 'way of life' which a generation ago would not have had the universal appeal.

ANNCR: No, that's true. Well, Mr. Allen, what is the future of currency?  
29

ALLEN: I suspect it has less and less of a future . . . the more I as  
30 a mathematics educator see of the real world out there of the computer age . . . the more predictions I get as to what is technically feasible now and will be technically feasible in a few years in terms of recording every transaction by putting a magnetic card into an outlet and feeding everything into a computer, where your every coming and going fiscally will be monitored and will be instantaneously computed. It's a rather terrifying thing . . . but you can see that it is efficient . . . and it is very likely to become more and more a part of a way of life that's hard to envision today.

ANNCR: Well, yes. I see it as a great convenience . . . no doubt  
31 there will be abuses of such a broad system, but one of the obvious advantages would be that you don't stand the chance of losing currency . . . which is why I carry a credit card.

ALLEN: Now, there is always the frightening thought of losing a credit  
32 card.

ANNCR: Yes, but the newer credit cards are slightly more sophisticated,  
33 aren't they, than the original. For example, the one I carry only serves to identify me when I sign for something. And that I think is a safeguard, don't you?

ALLEN: This is true. I have, in my readings, heard that if at . . .  
34 somewhere like Kennedy Airport, a stolen credit card of one of the major types has a going rate of a hundred to a hundred fifty dollars.

ANNCR: Is that right?  
35

ALLEN: Pickpockets can earn a fair living . . . it's a rather  
36 frightening thing. These cards, for the initial moments, hours, days, before the entire system can be alerted against the



stolen card, are negotiable . . . and the loss of course is suffered by not the credit card holder (if he got the word in fast) but 'the system'.

ANNCR: Right . . .

37

ALLEN: And the system is just impersonal enough that there are those  
38 who would victimize it, who wouldn't steal from an individual.

ANNCR: Well, I hope you will come back and talk to us some more  
39 about this absolutely fascinating hobby of yours, Mr. Allen,  
but just in conclusion, is there anything that you're looking  
for, now, to add to your collection, that someone might have?

ALLEN: Well, I think so . . . but with the reservation that the  
40 things I like are not the valuable ones, and are not giving a  
lead to the things that really should be searched for if you  
are looking for treasure in the old teapot. I can tell you  
what the treasure is . . . that will be the nice, shiny  
Victorian coin that's as good as the day it was minted and  
that great grandmother put away. This is worth money today!  
. . . [Tape, as aired, apparently broken off at this point.]







# SEMINARS IN POPULAR NUMISMATICS

- -

a series of four evening lectures  
and discussions in support of  
educational activities of

Truro Coin Club

American Numismatic Association

National Coin Week, 1970

- -

by

H. D. Allen

- -

Monday, April 20--Thursday, April 23

Nova Scotia Teachers College  
(The Board Room)

Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada



### National Coin Week

Begun in the 1920's, National Coin Week is an annual educational venture promoted by the American Numismatic Association, the largest of coin collector groups, and observed in many parts of the world. The purpose of the week is to make the public increasingly aware of the educational, fraternal, and leisure-interest aspects of the coin hobby, and to this purpose this series of seminars is dedicated.

### The Speaker

Internationally known as a lecturer and writer on numismatics, the speaker has broadcast across Canada, on overseas shortwave, and on New York stations, and has fifteen A.N.A. educational awards for talks in Canada and the U.S. He has been published, also, in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, London, in 1963. This year is his fifteenth consecutive year of National Coin Week participation.

### Numismatic Associations

The following numismatic associations will welcome your interest and possible affiliation. Sample publications should be available at nominal cost. The speaker will be pleased to endorse your membership application if, at any future date, there is any such group which you seek to join.

1. TRURO COIN CLUB,  
c/o Mr. Harry Forbes, Secretary  
137 King Street  
Truro, Nova Scotia (Dues \$2)  
Monthly meetings; periodic public displays.
2. Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association,  
c/o Mr. Bernard G. Kline, Secretary,  
1635 Edward Street,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia (Dues \$1)  
Two all-day meetings per year; monthly newsletter.
3. Canadian Numismatic Association,  
c/o Mrs. Louise Graham, General Secretary,  
P. O. Box 313,  
Willowdale, Ontario. (Dues \$6)  
Publishes Canadian Numismatic Journal.
4. American Numismatic Association,  
c/o Mr. Adna G. Wilde, Jr., Executive Director,  
A.N.A. Headquarters Building,  
Colorado State College Campus,  
P.O. Box 2366,  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901.  
Publishes The Numismatist.



5. American Vecturist Association,  
c/o Rev. John M. Coffee, Jr., Editor,  
P.O. Box 1204,  
Boston, Massachusetts 02104.  
Publishes The Fare Box.
6. Tokens and Medals Society,  
c/o Dorothy C. Baber, Secretary,  
611 Oakwood Way,  
El Cajon, California 92021. (Dues US \$4)  
Publishes Journal of the Token and Medal Society
7. International Bank Note Society,  
c/o Mrs. Adolph B. Hill, Jr., Secretary,  
4944 Lindell Blvd.,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108.  
Publishes I.B.N.S. Magazine.
8. Canadian Paper Money Society,  
c/o Mr. Wilfred A. Sandall, Executive Director (Membership),  
P.O. Box 7, Station S,  
Toronto, Ontario. (Dues \$10)  
Publishes Canadian Paper Money Journal
9. Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 23, G.P.O.,  
Wellington, New Zealand.  
Publishes New Zealand Numismatic Journal.
10. Numismatic Society of South Australia, Inc.,  
c/o Mr. Norman W. Gaunt, Honorary Secretary,  
P.O. Box 80B, G. P. O.,  
Adelaide, South Australia 5001, Australia,  
Publishes Australian Numismatic Journal.
11. Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, A. C.,  
Apartado Postal 31-460,  
Mexico, D. F., Mexico. (Dues US \$5)  
Publishes Boletin Trimestral de la S. N. M. (bilingual).

#### Current Displays

A display of numismatic literature and of certain numismatic items may be seen in the display case outside the Library, 2nd floor.

An exhibit of Canadian paper money, with particular emphasis on government issues, from 1870, and Bank of Montreal issues, may be seen this week at Bank of Montreal, Truro, during regular banking hours.

Also marking National Coin Week, Truro Coin Club will be exhibiting and welcoming guests at Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, this Saturday, April 25, from 2 p.m.



## SEMINARS ON POPULAR NUMISMATICS

### I. Monday, April 20

MONEY: CATTLE TO CREDIT CARD. Twenty-five centuries of monetary tradition. Barter. Commodity money: cattle, wives, beads (wampum), shells cowries, precious metals. Early coins. Characteristics of a coin. Coinage metals. Artistic traditions. Coinage as a prerogative of the state. Seigniorage. Assertion of sovereignty. Coinage after the discovery of the New World. Influence of Spanish issues. "Federal" money of the United States. Paper money as a monetary form. Oriental and European traditions. Paper money issue as a governmental prerogative. Legal tender bank notes. Irredeemable paper money. Great "paper" inflations of Germany, China, Greece, and Hungary. Wartime emergency and occupation money. South American inflations: Chile's pesos; Brazil's cruzeros. Nationalist currencies. Katanga, Biafra. Other forms of monetary paper. The government, business, and personal cheque. Travellers cheques. The "credit card" and credit living. Change in the twentieth-century reviewed. Gold standard. Silver crisis. Uniformity. Decimalization. Future prospects. "Legal tender" paper (central banks). "Token" coinage. Computerization and automation. Interests of the monetary student.

### 2. Tuesday, April 21

CANADA'S CURRENCY: PLAYING CARD TO SILVER-LESS DOLLAR. 1970 as two-fold anniversary in Canadian coin history. Coinage of New France, 1670; "playing card" money, from 1685. Canadian federal coinage and paper money, 1870. Present as traditional period in Canadian coinage circulation. Silver, copper as traditional. End to silver mintings, 1968. Coinage series as presently in circulation: small cents (1920), nickel five cents (1922), some silver ten, twenty-five, fifty(?) cents. Overview of federal coinage series, 1870-1970. Proper names for the coins (avoiding Americanisms). Type coins. Dates and series. Mint marks. Important varieties (dot, maple leaf. Philadelphia reeding). Silver (and silverless) dollars. Provincial series: Canada, N. B., P. E. I., N. S., Nfld. Characteristics of the Nfld. series. Decimalization (1858-1865). Merchants' tokens. Bank and government paper currency. Present status. Creation (1934) and role of Canada's central bank. Traditional role of banks of issue. Canadian traditions in bank note art. Canadian bank issues for outside Canada (Bermuda, West Indies, British Guiana). Early precedents. Collectors' overview of Canadian monetary items.

### 3. Wednesday, April 22.

NUMISMATICS: COLLECTING AND COLLECTORS. Traditional exclusiveness, when education, leisure, and affluence were restricted to the few. Traditional preoccupation with gold, silver type-pieces English monarchs); ancients in all metals. Contrast with present nonexclusiveness, millions of recognized collectors and accumulators, looking to varied material - for a diversity of reasons. United States numerically dominant. American approach to collecting. Interest in dated, mint-marked sequences. Speculative element. Hoarding (rolls, mint sacks). Catalogues and collector publications catering to these interests. Numismatic associations, national, regions, local. Specialized groups. Specialized interests: medals (decorations, awards, commemoratives), coins (proof coins, specimen sets, countries, periods, types, sequences), tokens, (store, tax, transit, telephone, "gaming", dairy) paper money, emergency money. Illustrative examples.



Thursday, April 23

EDUCATION AND NUMISMATICS. General increase in recreational and hobby interests. Increase in leisure. Children's early interest in money. Availability of coins for collecting. Fiftieth year of Canadian small cent. U. S. Lincoln cent, in common Canadian circulation, most collected series in the world. Nickle 5 cents of Canada (since 1922) has worn exceptionally well. Silver 10 cents and 25 cents more costly, but offer interesting possibilities. Foreign minor coins: opportunities to obtain and exchange. Catalogues and "research" Mint statistics and "circulation finds." Counterfeits, etc. Housing and displaying a collection. Exhibiting competitively. Originality in collecting. Representative areas where much remains to be learned. Summary remarks on the state of present-day numismatics.